

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

----- 018671

R 151957Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8825

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, XF

SUBJ: FRENCH EXPORT DRIVE IN MID EAST

1. IN MEETING MARCH 11 WITH EMBOFFS ON OTHER MATTERS, JACQUES BILLE, CABINET ADVISOR TO FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BARRE, EXPRESSED SOME UNHAPPINESS OVER JOHN VINOCUR (AP) ARTICLE IN MARCH 10 HERALD TRIBUNE ABOUT DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF GOF TRADE DRIVE IN MIDEAST. HE SAID ARTICLE WAS MISLEADING AND BROUGHT HORDES OF FRENCH REPORTERS SEEKING CONFIRMATION. BILLE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FRENCH EXPORTERS HAD SUFFERED SOME SETBACKS ON MAJOR MIDEAST CONTRACTS RECENTLY, BUT GOF SEES NO REASON FOR BASIC CHANGE IN CURRENT PROMOTIONAL TECHNIQUES. VISIT TO TRIPOLI NEXT WEEKEND OF FRENCH PRIMIN WAS CITED AS EXAMPLE OF HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL CONTACTS DESIGNED AT LEAST IN PART TO ASSIST FRENCH EXPORTERS. PROBLEM, BILLE SAID, IS TO RESTRAIN SENIOR POLITICIANS FROM MAKING EXTRAVAGANT

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT MAJOR PROJECTS BEING FAITS

ACCOMPLIS WHEN THEY ARE STILL IN NEGOTIATION PHASE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM LOCAL PRESS THAT CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION BY FRENCH OF TEHRAN METRO, ONE OF PROJECTS CITED BY VINOCUR AS HAVING APPARENTLY FALLEN THROUGH, HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED. IN FACE OF PUBLIC CRITICISM, HOWEVER, AND WITH RECESSIONARY PROBLEMS STILL BESETTING FRENCH INDUSTRY, WE CAN EXPECT GOF EXPORT DRIVE IN MIDDLE EAST TO INTENSIFY OVER MONTHS AHEAD. WITH WEEKEND DEVALUATION OF FRENCH FRANC, FRENCH FIRMS NOW HAVE ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND REPORTS OF FRENCH FRUSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT ENGENDER COMPLACENCY ON OUR PART.

3. BILLE PROMISED RUNDOWN NEXT WEEK OF RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH LIBYANS.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760097-0954  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, FR, XF, US, (BILLE, JACQUES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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